

technological advancements in health care organizations.

The United States spends over \$1.2 trillion a year on health care. We could have a dramatic impact on reducing the amount of paperwork on the administrative side by using bar code technology that automatically captures patient data and eliminates some of the costly administrative burdens that take hospital staff away from patient care.

Moreover, the quality of life in rural America depends on having access to quality, affordable health care.

Mr. Chairman, will you agree to work with me to improve the quality of health care in small and rural hospitals as this bill moves forward in the legislative process?

□ 1730

Mr. REGULA. Yes. I thank the gentleman for bringing this important issue to my attention and to the attention of the House of Representatives.

I agree that the quality of health care in rural America is an important issue. And regrettably in a tight fiscal environment, some reductions have been made to rural health care programs. I look forward to working with the gentleman to help find funding streams from which to draw from to help improve the technology available to patients of health care providers in rural America.

Mr. JINDAL. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MARCHANT) having assumed the chair, Mr. TERRY, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3010) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained yesterday on official business.

Had I been here, I would have cast the following votes: Roll Call 297, no. Roll Call 298, no. Roll Call 299, aye. Roll Call 300, no. Roll Call 301, no. Roll Call 302, aye. Roll Call 303, no. Roll Call 304, no.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2005, TO FILE A REPORT ON H.R. 2864, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure have until midnight, Friday, June 24, 2005, to file a report to accompany the bill H.R. 2864, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2567

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 2567.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 415

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 415.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and I missed Roll Call vote 259. Had I been present I would have voted nay.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and I missed several votes. Had I been present I would have voted the following: Roll Call vote 293, aye. Roll Call vote 294, no. Roll Call vote 295, no. Roll Call vote 296, nay. Roll Call vote 297, no. Roll Call vote 298, no. Roll Call vote 299, aye. Roll Call vote 300, no. Roll Call vote 301, no. Roll call vote 302, aye. Roll Call vote 303, aye.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

SAVE PUBLIC BROADCASTING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. CHANDLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, it was with alarm and a great sense of shock that I learned of the proposal to cut public broadcasting. Public broadcasting provides unbiased, in-depth

coverage of public policy issues, exposure to the arts and culture, and quality family-friendly educational program.

Cutting funding for public broadcasting would damage the fabric of public discourse and citizen oversight, the very basis of representative government. By encouraging and informing public debate, public broadcasting makes a lasting contribution to community across the country and has historically enjoyed broad bipartisan support.

In Kentucky, Governors from both parties have worked with Kentucky Educational Television to create the largest PBS member network in America, serving 640,000 Kentuckians each week. The proposed cut that we debated today would have had a crippling impact on the ability of KET and other public broadcasters to inform the public and enrich the curriculum taught to school children in the district of every single Member of this body.

The question on everyone's minds was why?

As educators and parents across our Nation contend with inadequate resources for public schools, why drastically scale back support for programming that enhances basic education and provides many students, especially those in rural schools, with their only exposure to the arts, music and the humanities? As policymakers work to improve early childhood education, why eliminate support for good programs like Sesame Street and Clifford the Big Red Dog which improve reading and literacy skills for millions of children?

As parents express concern about indecent content in the shows that their children watch, why turn our back on the only station I can allow my three children, Lucie, Albert and Branham, to watch without supervision?

And as the public seeks refuge from an increasingly disappointing, and, in some cases, outright partisan media, why rescind support for highly respected objective news programs like the NewsHour with Jim Lehrer and Frontline?

Why cripple excellent radio stations like WUKY and WEKU in my district, jeopardizing shows like Morning Edition and All Things Considered?

Why indeed? I cannot answer such questions. The very notion of turning away from the future of public broadcasting is preposterous. I am fearful this is an administration effort to either censor public broadcasters or intimidate them into favorably reporting on the current administration. I sincerely hope not. Objectivity and facts know nothing of partisan politics.

The opponents of public broadcasting should take note, we will never stop fighting to preserve public broadcasting's independence. Public broadcasting is a true civic treasury, a shining example of what good government policy can do to improve our quality of life and strengthen the American Republic by engaging citizens in public affairs.